

BLONDIE



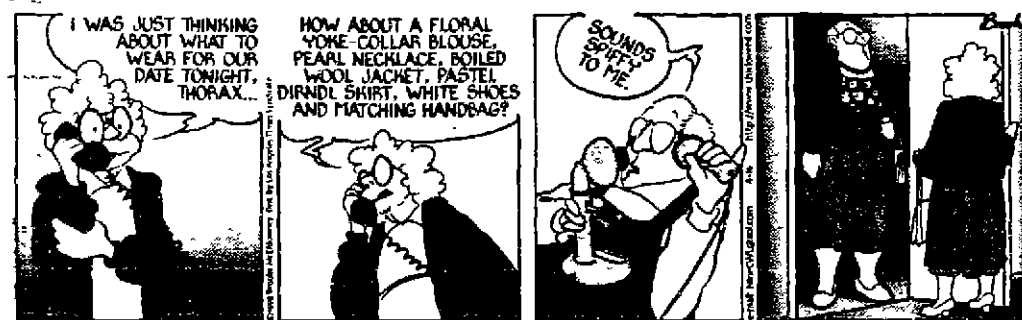
SALLY FORTH



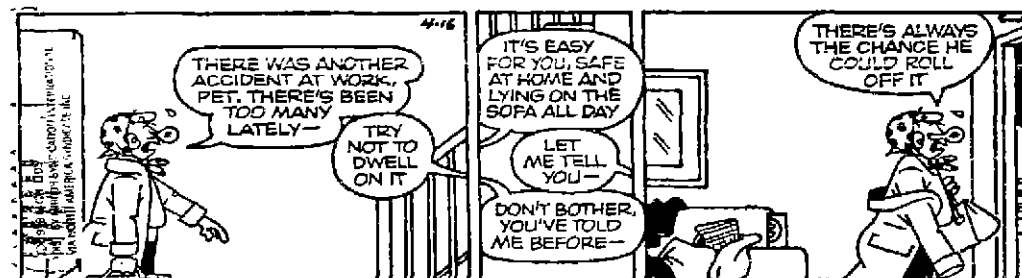
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



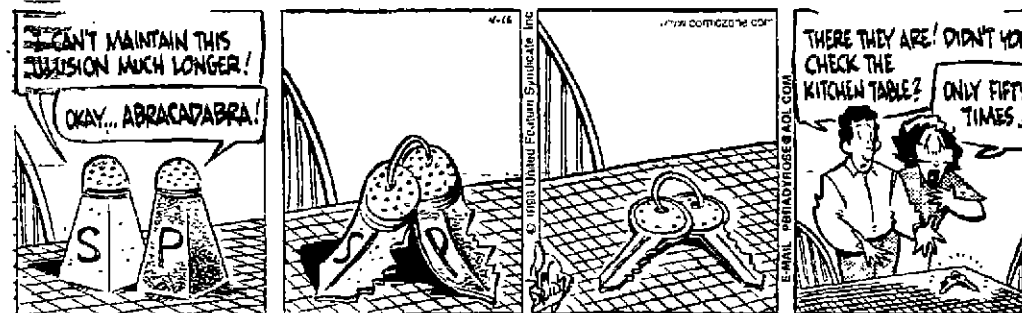
9 CHICKWEED LANE



ANDY CAPP



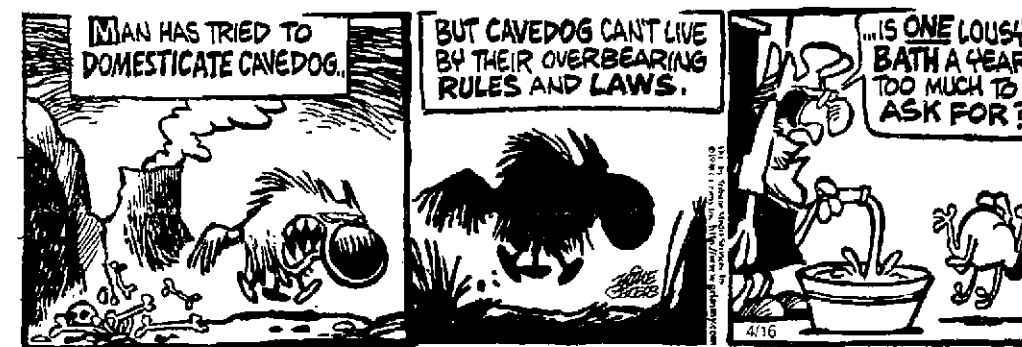
ROSE IS ROSE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



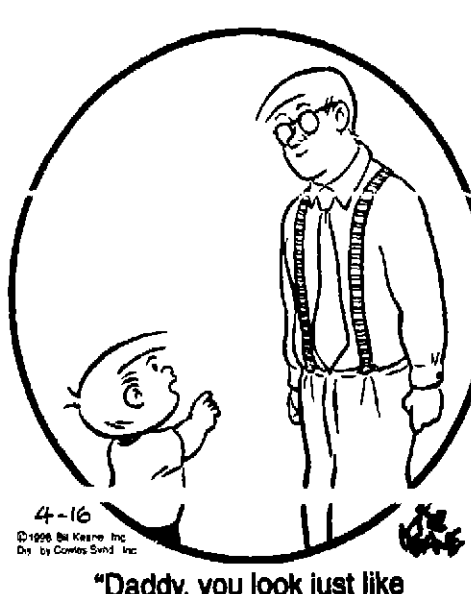
DILBERT



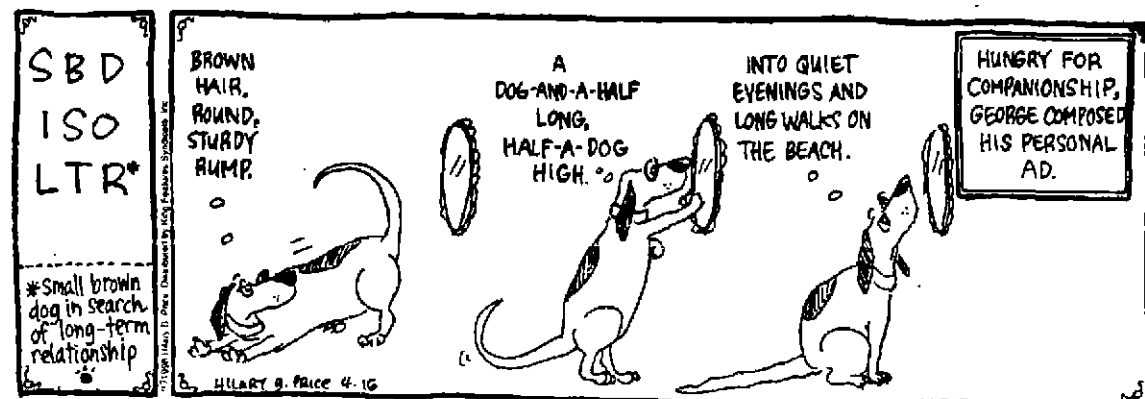
DENNIS THE MENACE



FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



HOROSCOPE

For Friday, April 17, 1998

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Making light of a friend's problem seems to be the right approach. However, beyond injecting

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) To be fair, a certain bigwig isn't giving you the benefit of the doubt. However, the situation will resolve itself in time.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A dose of generosity is required on your part. No one's perfect, including you.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A co-worker is so chatty you can't seem to get in a word edgewise. After a burst of temper, you get yourself under control.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Friendships are highlighted, and togetherness rules the day.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) An all-out brawl between two family members doesn't have to include you. The fight has been a long time coming.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You've proved time and time again that the seemingly impossible can be done. Once again, you apply yourself and get the job done.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A lackadaisical attitude stands in your way of getting things done. However, you rise above it.

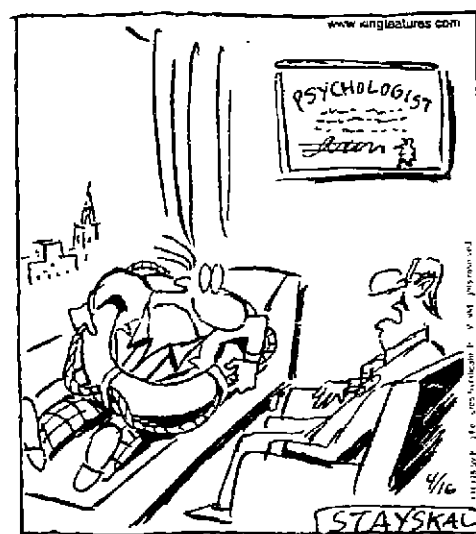
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You and a co-worker are at cross purposes — which doesn't serve either of you well.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Remember your manners at that business lunch, because a slip of the tongue is possible.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Well, well... you can dish it out, but you can't take it! Someone has you on the defensive, and you're not happy about it.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Someone is lying to you, and you're furious. However, confrontation doesn't help.

RALPH



WORD SLEUTH

Sumo wrestling

V C Z W T Q N J G D A X U R O
L J G D A T X V S P N K I F C
A X V Y O K O Z U N A P A J S
Q O L H J I H O L A I T R A M
I H S I K I R E F Y C A X V H
S A L T T Y N O M E R E C C R
B P N A L J E Y T B R I T H F
D B Y T U X M H V O T A N R P
O M K I L T G O G M M E B G D
B Z X W U E I D T U R U Q O N
L J I G F D B R C S A Y S X W

Wednesday's unlisted clue: WRENCH

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Thursday's unlisted clue hint: A JAPANESE — ART

Barefoot	Ceremony	Rikishi	Sumobeya
Basho	Donyo	Feng	Sumotori
Belt	Japan	Ritual	Yokozuna
Big men	Match	Salt	

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For solution, see Classified.

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 0305

- ACROSS**
- Composer Khachaturian
 - Starting letters in military code
 - Asian holidays
 - Electronics giant
 - It may be sweet
 - Indian tourist town
 - "Georgia on My Mind" composer
 - B.P.O.E. cousin
 - Any of the Furies
 - Circumspect
 - Serf
 - War admiral under Charles II
 - O.R. personnel
 - Nasal partitions
 - Where to make waves
 - Half brother of Hermes
 - Deep-six
 - Thou-shalt-not
 - Thousand Island alternative
 - Outfit
 - Jack of "Barney Miller"
 - More than fans
 - Skips
 - It can be found in runes
 - Hot
 - Plutarch biographical subject
 - Blue Meanies musical
 - Compelled
 - Japanese immigrant
 - Irish name
 - Iditarod Trail transport
 - Gets 30-Down
 - Tear to pieces
- DOWN**
- Blond shade
 - Friend of Tigger
 - Literary snippets
 - 1965
 - Temptations hit
 - Old record label
 - It has two heels
 - On behalf of
 - Where to use a PIN
 - Guard
 - Papeete resident
 - First governor of Alaska
 - Rare trick-taker
 - "Do the Right Thing" pizzeria
 - Is wildly unstable
 - Toots one's own horn
 - Moth-repellent wood
 - 70's-'80's
 - Leblanc's Lupin
 - They may be mad
 - Passes
 - Stoked
 - Tap

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

REACT MEANS TAR
BAGUE AARON ONE
COUPDEGRACE USA
ODEON TESTED
HUFFING LUNOLY
UNITES SERENE
LINES OLAND SAP
GODA LOUPE CUE

ODIN'S COUTER
STINKER POLSOS
THEIS EANSY
ARC MONDEQUAEE
OIL IMAGE PAINE
EWE UUVEN SUDAN

ACES ON BRIDGE

By Bobby Wolff

"Please settle this argument for my partnership," asks a reader. "Our differing ideas regarding defensive signals caused us to blow the game." West led his club queen, and East sig-

the singleton club in dummy, coupled with dummy's trump length, East's club 10 was an unmistakable suit-preference signal. East was not asking for a club continuation; he wanted West to shift to the higher-ranking side suit. Obediently, West shifted to his spade deuce, giving East the count in spades.

When South played dummy's king, East won his ace and returned the suit, believing West had the spade 10. This ended the defense. South took his free finesse, drew trumps, and conceded a diamond, claiming his vulnerable game. Our reader claims West should have led a high spade, not the deuce. East would then have known West didn't have the 10 and would have ducked dummy's king. Later, when West wins his diamond ace, another spade lead would defeat the game. East's argument is a valid one. In the middle of the defense, it's often more important to tell partner about an honor card than your distribution. East was not without fault. To defeat the game, two spade winners would not suffice. West would also need a quick winner in either trumps or diamonds. And if he had this, there was no rush to win the spade ace. East could wait for a second spade lead from West.

WEST
♠ 8 6 3 2
♥ 4 3
♦ A 2
♣ Q J 9 8 5

EAST
♠ A J 4
♥ 6 2
♦ 6 5 4
♣ A K 10 6 4

SOUTH
♠ 10 7 5
♥ A K Q 8 7
♦ J 8 3
♣ 7 2

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: West

The bidding:
West Pass North East South
Pass 1 ♠ 1 ♥
2 ♠ 4 ♥ All pass

Opening lead: Club queen

would have ducked dummy's king. Later, when West wins his diamond ace, another spade lead would defeat the game. East's argument is a valid one. In the middle of the defense, it's often more important to tell partner about an honor card than your distribution. East was not without fault. To defeat the game, two spade winners would not suffice. West would also need a quick winner in either trumps or diamonds. And if he had this, there was no rush to win the spade ace. East could wait for a second spade lead from West.

BRIDGE RESULTS

Bridge America: Tuesday morning, first, Edith Farnham; Doug Lyon; second/third/fourth, Bob Donahue, Bob Seymour; Millie Albrigo; Sarah Fiorito; Jean Oberg, Janet Sinclair.

The Bridge Studio: Sunday afternoon, first, Gayle Barrington, Doug Lyon; second, Bill Foster, Cameron Ross; Sunday evening, first, Josh Carino, Gary Simonetta; second, Mary Walsh, Cornelia Yoder; Monday morning, first, Carl Brown, Claude Henri; second, Ralph Carley, Julie Sunser; Monday evening, first, Sharlene Kostichka, Fran LeBoeuf; second, Sharon Paulus, Bob Simard. Tuesday evening, first, Gerta Freimark, Julie Sunser; second, Carl Hileman, Cameron Ross; Wednesday evening, first, Mark Bowick, Cornelia Yoder; second, Jeff King, Monny Moncrief; Thursday morning teaching game, 1 NS, Beverly Spooner, Larry Spooner; 2 NS Betsy Stone, Jim Stone; 1 EW, Alma Leech, Anne Taylor; 2 EW, Joanne Greenhouse, Nancy Hunter, Thursday evening, first, Howie Cring, Carmen Swenson; second, Dave Hornung, Dan Kurtz; Friday morning, first, Sharon Paulus, Bob Simard; second, Murray Hall, Sharlene Kostichka; Friday evening, first, Doug Lyon, Cornelia Yoder; second, Allene Huntley, Don Paulus.

Concord Aces: 1 NS, Esther Emm, Opel Williams; 2 NS, Joe Conrad, Dot Joiner; 1 EW, Sally Jamieson, Louise Starling; 2 EW, Joan Liddle, Kay Worthen.

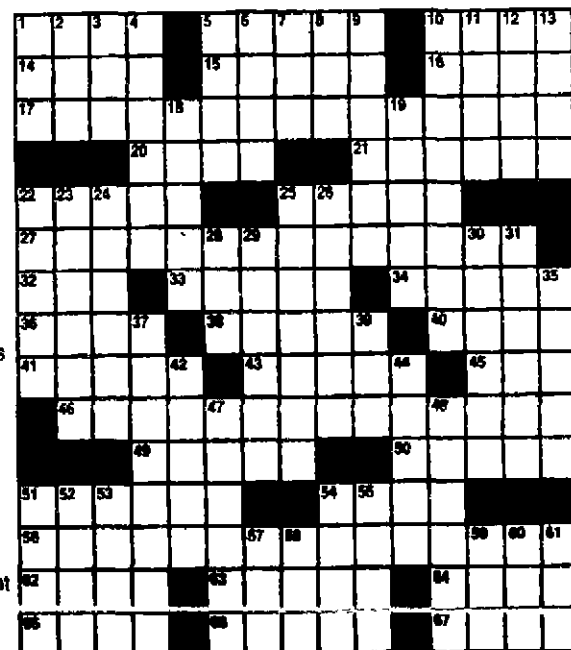
Stonehedge: 1 NS, Flo Berry, Jane Hackbarth; 2 NS, Mar Armstrong, Judy Butcher; 1 EW, Peg Hesslein, Louise Starling; 2 EW, Barb Eveleigh, Norma Germain.

Western Hills: 1 NS, Maggie Christy, Roni Capraro; 2 NS, Pauline Lynch, Eleanor Peters; 1 EW, Gerry Burns, Mary Cuntin; 2 EW, Kay Mason, Judy Sylvester.

Call 422-4114 by Friday evening to report your bridge club results.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Actor-director-author **Peter Ustinov** is 77. Actor **Peter Mark Richman** is 71. Actress-singer **Edie Adams** is 69. Jazz musician **Herbie Mann** is 68. Singer **Bobby Vinton** is 63. Singer **Dusty Springfield** is 59. Basketball Hall-of-Famer **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar** is 51. Singer **Gerry Rafferty** is 51. Actress **Ellen Barkin** is 44. Singer **Jimmy Osmond** is 35. Actor-comedian **Martin Lawrence** is 33. Actor **Jon Cryer** is 33. Actor **Peter Billingsley** ("A Christmas Story") is 26. Actor **Lukas Haas** is 22.



Puzzle by Wynne Robert Williams

- 38 Comparatively contiguous
- 39 "Ye" follower, sometimes
- 40 One with a handle
- 41 "Jake's Thing" novelist
- 42 Ship of 1492
- 43 Advantageous to both sides
- 44 Not as good
- 45 Cabaret singer Sylvia
- 46 Shade of blue
- 47 "Ye" follower, sometimes
- 48 One with a handle
- 49 "Jake's Thing" novelist
- 50 Maui-to-Hawaii dir.
- 51 Olympics chant
- 52 Steamed state
- 53 "Henry & June" role
- 54 Kind of user

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone: 1-900-420-5656 (75¢ per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-800-7-ACROSS.